



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Health Releases Annual Tobacco Prevention and Control Report

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the release of *Tobacco Prevention and Control in North Dakota – A Status Report of Leading Indicators (2004)*.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control status report details the levels of tobacco use in North Dakota; describes the goals, budget and funding levels for the state's tobacco prevention and control program; highlights current efforts of state, community and tribal programs; and reveals the economic and health-related burdens of tobacco on the state.

"The annual tobacco report is a summary of the successes we have had in tobacco control and the important work we still have ahead of us," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M.. "It details the progress we have made in saving the lives of North Dakotans and saving money for our state, but also shows that with a continued effort we can do even more to help our citizens."

Highlights of the report include:

- Since 1999, there are 6,000 fewer youth smoking and 3,000 fewer youth using smokeless tobacco. These reductions in youth tobacco use translate to an estimated savings of \$100 million in future tobacco-related health-care costs.
- There are 12,000 fewer adults smoking now than in 1999, which saves North Dakota taxpayers and businesses an estimated \$42 million a year in tobacco-related direct medical expenditures and lost productivity.

Copies of the report can be downloaded from the state's Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control website at <http://www.ndtobaccoprevention.net/Facts/TobaccoAnnualReport.pdf>.

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